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23 January 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: Howard Penniman, ERS, Department of State

SUBJECT: Research Requirements, South and Southeast Asia

1. In response to requests from your Staff for suggested additions to two memoranda and a "research topic list" on research requirements for South and Southeast Asia, members of our staff offer the following:

a. Economics and Industry

(1) Current industrial conditions; operating capacity of important industrial installations, raw material resources and over-all production of important manufacturing and extractive industries in the various countries of Southeast Asia.

(2) Population and estimated manpower resources, by skills and numbers, in the various countries of Southeast Asia.

(3) The terms of contract labor in Indochina, Thailand and Malaya.

(4) Relative self-sufficiency or viability of each national economy in Southeast Asia.

(5) Estimates of national income and the components thereof for each country of Southeast Asia.

b. Attitudes in the Various Countries Toward the East-West Struggle

(1) Degree of awareness of, and concern over, East-West struggle in various elements of the population.

(2) Degree to which there has been disenchantment in recent months with professed Communist aims, particularly with respect to Communist China. Reasons for these changed attitudes.

(3) Degree to which basic pro-Westernism may exist within "neutralism," but is not voiced because of strongly held nationalist sentiments.

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(4) Particular emphasis on the attitudes of youth.

c. Attitudes in the Various Countries Toward Their Own Governments.

(1) Degree to which regimes are either supported, tolerated, or disliked. Reasons for these attitudes.

(2) Discernible trends, if any, in these attitudes, particularly with respect to Vietnam.

(3) Particular emphasis on the attitudes of youth.

d. Propaganda

(1) The effect upon attitudes in the various countries toward the East-West struggle of events in the US, the USSR, and Communist China which are not primarily related to Southeast Asia.

(2) The relative effect of these actions upon opinions in Southeast Asia, as opposed to the Organized propaganda activities in Southeast Asia of US, USSR, and Communist China.

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Office of Intelligence Coordination

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